“DON’T FALL FOR IT”

HUNTSMAN PNPP ADDRESSES 100% TIE-OFF POLICY
Is 100% tie-off required by your employer, when working from a scaffold?

Why?

What makes an employer think that 100% tie-off is safe?
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WHAT HAZARDS ARE WE PROTECTING WORKERS FROM BY REQUIRING 100% TIE OFF?
There is “NO” evidence to support the philosophy that 100% Tie-Off reduces death, injury or accident rates.
OSHA Scaffolding Standard was revised in 1996 due to a study performed by the BLS (Bureau of Labor Statistics):

- 25% of workers injured in scaffolding accidents had received no scaffold safety training
- 77% of scaffolds were not equipped with guardrails.

OSHA requires either a guardrail system OR a personal fall arrest system to be used when working from a scaffold.
72% of workers injured in scaffolding accidents attribute the accident either to planking or support giving way, or employee slipping or being struck by a falling object.
Over a 7 yr. period, OSHA reported these statistics for scaffolding deaths:

23% = Construction deficiencies
14% = Occurred while climbing
8% = Occurred during building/demo
10% = Structural failure
18% = Electrocution
10% = Being struck by falling objects
10% = Falls while working on platforms
The Department of Labor states that all of the reported accidents could’ve been prevented by compliance with OSHA standard 29CFR1926.450-452 for scaffolding.
Huntsman PNPP has never been a 100% tie-off facility.

As contractors were unwilling to build “Green Tag Scaffolds”, we were forced into 100% tie-off.

We allowed “Non-Standard Scaffolds” to be built and signified with a yellow tag, which requires 100% tie-off.

This action deviates from our own plant Safety Procedures.
Scaffold Acceptance Tag
Standard Completed Scaffold and Safe to Use
1. Good Frame
2. Footing Well Secured
3. Plumb
4. Pins In Place
5. Cross Braces In Place
6. Scaffold Boards Checked of Defaults
7. Fully Planked, Cleated and/or Nailed & Wired
8. Minimum of Two Scaffold Boards
9. Scaffold Boards Extend at the End of Scaffold a Min. of 6" & a Max. of 12"
10. Guardrails, 4 Ft. & Above
11. Midrails, 4 Ft. & Above
12. Toeboards, 4 Ft. & Above
13. Safe Ladder Access
Comments:

Inspected and OK'ed By: ________________

STANDARD COMPLETE SCAFFOLD AND SAFE TO USE
NON-STANDARD SCAFFOLD

SAFETY HARNESS REQUIRED
SCAFFOLD MAY NOT BE USED
We encouraged Non-standard scaffolds to be built by not enforcing our own Safety procedures.

There was discussion about changing the Safety procedure to 100% tie-off simply because it wasn’t fair for Huntsman employees not to be required to wear a harness and lanyard when contractors were requiring their employees to tie-off 100%.
As a VPP Star Site we have the right to require and expect a “COMPLETED SCAFFOLD” to be built at every opportunity and signified with a GREEN TAG.

In cases where a “COMPLETED SCAFFOLD” cannot be built, a “YELLOW TAG” signifying an “INCOMPLETE SCAFFOLD” should require approval from the SAFETY DEPARTMENT.
Because of several horrible accidents that have occurred in the last several years where the severity of the injuries were a direct affect of wearing a safety harness and lanyard. It may not have been the root cause of the incidents, but the additional PPE has been responsible for the severity of the injuries or deaths.

So...why are we talking about this? What made this subject worthy of discussion?
ALL PPE HAS CONSEQUENCES.

It’s hot, heavy, cumbersome, uncomfortable, slows reaction, hinders movement, blocks vision, enables odors and sometimes restricts breathing.
Hazards of Fall Protection

- Harnesses and lanyards should be inspected each day for any wear, damage, deterioration, defects, fraying or contamination.

- Workers should be trained on how to tie-off properly. OSHA began requiring the use of snaphooks in January of 1998 and they should be hooked in a vertical position. Tying off in a horizontal position can bend or damage the snaphook making it unsafe for use.
Hazards of fall protection

▪ Never tie-off to guardrails since they are not rated to hold a great amount of weight.

▪ What distance from the ground should you be tied-off to protect yourself from a fall. How far will a shock absorber deploy before it catches you?

▪ Harnesses should be selected for the appropriate weight of the person using them. This should include body weight plus boots, clothing and tools combined.
Suspension Trauma

If an employee is suspended due to a fall, there is a very short amount of time which to rescue this person and prevent severe health issues.

Once the employee is rescued they CANNOT be laid down flat on their backs or the contaminated blood from their legs will flood the heart and could possibly kill the person.
A proper job assessment should reveal the minimum PPE requirements needed to perform a task. We have simply been programmed to accept 100% tie-off in every situation because it "looks" safe.
Falls are the leading cause of death in construction.

- **PLAN** ahead to get the job done safely.
- **PROVIDE** the right equipment.
- **TRAIN** everyone to use the equipment safely.
We must disarm the thought from workers that “the more PPE the better” and re-educate them to assess each task in detail to minimize the need for additional PPE.

PPE should be the last line of defense!
PERFECT EXAMPLE FOUND AT THE LOCAL GROCERY STORE
Read the logo:

HUNTSMAN
Enriching lives through innovation

Innovation = a new method, idea or product.

Please join PNPP in our efforts to investigate 100% tie-off and possibly change this growing culture to ensure a safe future.

Thank you and have a safe day!